

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-14, 31, 32, and 34 that are pending in the above-identified patent application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, and 9, and has cancelled claim 6 herein. No new matter is added by the amendments. In view of the following discussion, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter and Objection to Claims 6-14:

Applicant respectfully acknowledges that the Examiner has objected to claims 6-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that claims 6-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 of the instant application to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Applicant has amended claims 7 and 9 to depend from amended independent claim 1. As claims 2-5, 7-14, 31, 32, and 34 depend from amendment independent claim 1, Applicant submits that the aforementioned claim objections have been overcome.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the instant application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

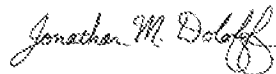
At numbered parts 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 31, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fuchs et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,708,846). In view of the amendments herein, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As aforementioned, Applicant has cancelled claim 6, and has amended independent claim 1 of the instant application to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 6. As such, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable. As claims 2-5, 31, 32, and 34 depend from claim 1, and recite additional patentable features, the subject dependent claims are, therefore, likewise patentable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the subject claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's §102 claim rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any fees due and owing in connection with this matter, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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